The Bloomfield Cimes.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all person who are interested in matters properly belonging to this de-

Value of the Earth-Worm.

The common earth-worm, though apt to be despised and trodden on, is really a useful creature in its way. Mr. Knapp describes it as the natural manurer of the soil, consuming on the surface the softer part of decayed vegetable matters, and conveying downwards the more woody fibres, which there molder and fertilize. They perforate the earth in all directions, thus rendering it permeable by air and water, both indispensable to vegetable life. According to Mr. Darwin's mode of expression, they give a kind of under tillage to the land, performing the same below ground that the spade does above for the garden, and the plow for arable soil. It is, in consequence, chiefly of the natural operations of worms that fields which have been overspread with lime, burnt marl, or cinders, become, in process of time, covered by a finely-divided soil, fitted for the support of vegetation. This result, though usually attributed by farmers to the "working down" of these materials, is really due to the action of earth-worms, as may be seen in the innumerable easts of which the initial soil consists. These are obviously produced by the digestive proceedings of the worms, which take into their intestinal canal a large quantity of the soil in which they feed and burrow, and then reject in the form of the so-called casts. "In this manner," says Mr. Darwin, "a field manured with marl has been covered, in the course of 80 years, with a bed of earth averaging 13 inches in thickness,"-Encyclopoedia Britannica.

Insect Food.

No doubt chickens are more fond of live maggots, ants, bugs and worms than any mice-meat you may make for them of beeves' hearts and livers, or sheeps' plucks. Never do chicks thrive better than when following a hard-scratching mother-hen, said hen having free access to a dung-hill of some standing, as to age, and being well exposed to the flies. A few maggets each day seem to give a peculiar smartness to the chicks, and evidently give strength and promote health. We have read somewhere of a system for producing this food by placing in pits layers of straw, horse-manure and a sprinkling of yeast, mashed potatoes and Indian meal, covering all with soil one inch thick.

The muck-fly is said to lay five hundred millions of eggs (who counted 'em?) in a season. She enters this pit, and in nine days, lo and behold! the mass is filled with chicken-food of the best quality. It is pleasanter and handier to provide the animal-food from the shambles, boil it and chop it fine, but an insect-diet is, nevertheless, a good dish to be sought, and we think may be obtained in the manner above stated, if a little time and patience are used, and the materials are at hand.—Ex.

Weaning Lambs.

Some flock-masters have adopted the erroneous and injurious practice of not weaning, or rather depending on the mother to wean the lamb. This practice will not hurt the lamb, but will keep the mother poor, and she will be likely to fail to have a lamb the coming season, or if she does she will be so weak that great risk will be run in wintering her. The better plan is to wean the lamb at about three months of age, and if any are small then give them extra attention in the fall and early winter, and little risk will be run in wintering them. We have always found it best to wean our lambs on the range they have been in the habit of grazing over with their mothers. They will be more contented. and by putting in with them a few dry ewes, will soon lean to herd and can be managed with case. But be sure to give them the advantage of good fresh feed, so soon as they have forgotten their mother; don't let them lose their lamb's flesh, and there will be no difficulty in wintering them.-Exchange.

A Woman's Sphere.

As house-mistresses and as mothers, women have duties to perform quite as important in their results, if not so extensive in their area, as any that fall to the lot of men. As the former, the comfort and happiness of a greater or less number of people depends principally on them; as the latter, they influence and mold the future generation, and so are the ultimate sources whence flow the current of events, and the creators of the characters in which history is to be written. But for the most part they enter on these important duties with no preparation that can be called serious or sufficient, and act as if knowledge comes by the grace of nature.

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LISTATE NOTICE.—Notice is hereby given that letters of administration on the estate of Nicholas Reisinger, late of Saville twp., Perry county, Pa., dee'd. have been granted to the undersigned residing in Tuscarora and Savilletwps. All persons indebted tosaid estate are requested to make immediate payment and those having claims to present them duly authenticated for settlement to A. H. KERR. Tuscarora twp.
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45tf A. M. MARREL, Attorney at Law,
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Notice is hereby given that James Irvine and wife of Savilie township. Perry county, Pa., by deed of voluntary assignment have assigned all the estate, real and personal, of the said James Irvine to Thos. H. Milligan, of the borough of Newport, county and state aforesaid, in trust for the beneat of the creditors of the said James Irvine. All persons therefore indebted to said said James Irvine, will make payment to the will sasignee, and those having claims or demands the make known the same without delay.

January 30, 1877.

Assignee.

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